

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

FEA-02 INT-08 SAM-01 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

/224 W

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P R 061405Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6357

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USINT ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1504

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG XF

SUBJECT: YAMANI IGNORANT OF ARAB EMBARGO-LIFTING PLEDGES

SUMMARY: IN BEIRUT PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 5, IN WHICH
HE CAREFULLY NON-COMMITTAL, SAUDI OILMIN YAMANI QUOTED
AS SAYING HE HAS NO RPT NO KNOWLEDGE OF PLEDGES BY
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ARAB OIL PRODUCERS TO PRESIDENT NIXON TO LIFT ARAB OIL

EMBARGO ON U.S. HE ALSO REPORTED AS IMPLY-
ING THAT AFRICAN AND ARAB OIL CONSUMERS MAY BE OFFERED
LOANS OR CREDITS IN LIEU OF A TWO-TIER OIL PRICE
SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

1. SAUDI ARABIAN OIL MINISTER YAMANI TRANSISTED
BEIRUT FEB 5, MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SOLH AND HELD
ONE-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS REPORTED VARIOUSLY
BY MORNING NEWSPAPERS BUT IN WHICH IT CLEAR THAT
YAMANI WISHED REMAIN NON-COMMITTAL. ALL HIS STATE-
METS MADE IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS.

2. ASKED HIS OPINION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATEMENT
(PRESUMABLY IN STATE OF UNION ADDRESS) THAT CERTAIN
ARAB OIL COUNTRIES HAVE PLEDGED OR PROMISED TO LIFT
OIL EMBARGO, YAMANI QUOTED BY L'ORIENT-LEJOUR AS
RESPONDING, "I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A COMMITMENT
BY THESE COUNTRIES," BY AU SAFA, "I AM NOT CONVERSANT
WITH THAT." ASKED EARLIER ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA'U
ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFTING THE EMBARGO, YAMANI RESPONDED
SIMPLY THAT, "THE KINGOM'S ATTITUDE IS THAT OF THE
OTHER OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THE MATTER WILL BE
DISCUSSED WITHIN CONFERENCES OF ARAB OIL MINISTERS."

3. ASKED IF SAUDI ARABIA WOULD SUPPLY PETROLEUM TO
LEBANON AT REDUCED PRICES (40 PERCENT OF LOCAL CON-
SUMPTION COMES FROM TAPLINE), YAMANI SAID, "THIS
QUESTION DEPENDS ON OAPEC. BUT SAUDI ARABIA FOLLOWS
A POLICY WHICH ADVOCATES THE REDUCTION OF PETROLEUM
PRICES IN GENERAL. LEBANON, THE ARAB AND AFRICAN
STATES, SHOULD BENEFIT FROM FAVORABLE TREATMENT WHICH
WILL PERMIT THEM TO PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR
ECONOMIES. LEBANON IS ABROTHOR COUNTRY WHICH ENJOYS
ALL OUR SOLICITUDE AND CONSIDERATION" (L'ORIENT-LE
JOUR VERSION). PRESS ACCOUNTS SAID YAMANI DID NOT
EXPLAIN WHAT FORM SPECIAL TREATMENT MIGHT TAKE EXCEPT
TO NOTE THAT THE RECENT ARAB OIL MINISTERS MEETING IN
CAIRO HAD DECIDED TO OFFER LOANS TO AFRICAN STATES TO
PERMIT THEM TO BUY THEIR PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS. PRIME
MINISTER SOLH, HOWEVER, LATER TOLD REPORTERS THAT
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SAUDI ARABIA IS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLY-
ING PETROLEUM AT A REDUCED PRICE TO LEBANON, MOROCCO,
SUDAN, TUNISIA AND JORDAN.

3. ASKED IF THERE WERE DIFFERENCES WITHIN OPEC RPT
OPEC OVER SAUDI ARABIA'S ADVOCACY OF REDUCED OIL PRICES,
YAMANI SAID THAT WHILE OPEC'S MEMBER FREQUEUNTLY DIFFER
THEY ALWAYS END UP IN AGREEMENT.

COMMENT: BEIRUT STAR TREATED YAMANI'S STATEMENTS
PARA TWO ABOVE AS REFUTATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S
STATEMENT AND AS INDICATION THAT SAUDIS WILL NOT ACT
UNILATERALLY REGARDING EMBARGO ON U.S. AS IS KNOWN,
PRESIDENT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY CLAIM TO HAVE PROMISES
REGARDING LIFTING OF EMBARGO, THIS IU BEING A MISINTERPRE-
TATION OF BEIRUT PRESS. YAMANI MERELY ANSWERED AN INACCURATE
QUESTION LITERALLY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Subject: YAMANI IGNORANT OF ARAB EMBARGO-LIFTING PLEDGES SUMMARY: IN BEIRUT PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 5, IN WHICH
TAGS: ENRG, XF, US, (YAMANI, AHMAD ZAKI)
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